

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 00106 072120Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 INT-05 COME-00 PA-02 PRS-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5265

UNCLAS LA PAZ 0106

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, BL

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BANZER ADMONISHES COMIBOL FOR LOW PRODUCTION

REF: LA PAZ A-136, JULY 15, 1974

1. ON JANUARY 2, 1975, PRESIDENT BANZER MET WITH MINISTERS OF PLANNING-COORDINATION, MINING & METALLURGY, AND GENERAL MANAGER COMIBOL WITH CORRESPONDING STAFFS. AFTER STUDYING COMIBOL'S HIGH PRODUCTION COSTS, DECLINE OF MINERAL PRODUCTION AND ITS LARGE LABOR FORCE DURING 1974, BANZER FIXED COMIBOL'S MANDATORY TIN OUTPUT IN 1975 AT 21,750 METRIC TONS. PRESIDENT STATED HE WOULD APPLY DRASTIC MEASURES TO COMIBOL MANAGEMENT IF TIN OUTPUT GOAL NOT REACHED IN 1975. COMIBOL ACCEPTED BANZER'S GOAL AS POSSIBLE.

2. ACCORDING TO COMIBOL IN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN PRESS OF JANUARY 4 ITS TOTAL TIN OUTPUT IN 1973 WAS 20,846 METRIC TONS OF TIN-IN-CONCENTRATES WHILE ITS 1974 TIN OUTPUT WAS ABOUT 20,000 METRIC TONS.

COMMENT: PRELIMINARY FIGURES FOR 1974 FROM COMIBOL SHOW ITS TIN PRODUCTION TO BE ABOUT 15,000 METRIC TONS OF TIN-IN-CONCENTRATES. HOWEVER, FROM ITS LEASED MINES, CONFISCATION OF STOLEN ORE, AND PURCHASES FROM OTHER SOURCES, COMIBOL OBTAINED ABOUT 5,000 METRIC TONS OF ADDITIONAL TIN-IN-CONCENTRATES WHICH IS CLASSIFIED AS AART OF ITS OUTPUT.

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 00106 072120Z

3. IN SAME PRESS ARTICLE COMIBOL CLAIMS TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO BOLIVIAN TREASURY ABOUT US\$ 43.7 MILLION IN 1974 IN REGULAR EXPORT TAXES AND US\$ 13.3 MILLION IS SPECIAL TAXES ON MINERAL EXPORTS. COMIBOL STATES IT MADE PROFIT OF APPROXIMATELY US\$ 6.5 MILLION IN 1974. AS SHOWN IN REFAIR, IN 1973 COMIBOL MADE PROFIT OF US\$ 9.3 MILLION, AFTER DEDUCTING SUMS FOR LEGAL, CAPITAL, AND INVESTMENT RESERVE. THUS IN 1974 ITS LIKELY COMIBOL MADE MORE PROFIT THAN THE US\$ 6.5 MILLION IT STATES IT MADE IN PRESS ARTICLE, BECAUSE OF HIGHER METAL PRICES 1974 COMPARED TO 1973. PARKER

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